IV. *Part of a Letter from Mr* James Yonge *to Mr* John Haughton, *F. R. S. concerning the internal use of* Cantharides.

Plymouth, July 17. 1702.

SIR,

A Gentlewoman of 54 years old, who for a long time had been tormented with frequent Fits of the Stone, and uſually brought off many, with the Gravel, *&c.* about an year ſince grew Dropſical, of which being lately cured, ſhe fell into a total ſuppreſſion of Urine, which many days baffled all Remedies.

In this deſperate condition, I reſolved on a deſperate Medicine, and accordingly about 4 in the afternoon, the 5th day of the Diſeaſe I gave her 5 *Cantharides* (without Heads, Wings or Legs) weighing 4 Grains and a half, and with as much Camphire and a little Conſerve, made them into two Pills or Bolus's.

Next morning, finding no effect good or bad, I repented the Medicine; after which, about noon the flood came, and continued above 48 hours, bringing off in that time much more Urine, than could have been expected from her in the whole time of the obſtruction.

Some Gravel, and *Sabulous* matter come away, but no Stones, nor did there any thing happen to the Stomach, Bladder or other Bowels, as uſual on the Internal uſe of thoſe Inſects, but they operated ſo quietly, as if nothing but two doſes of *Lapis Prunellæ* had been adminiſtred.

You know the controverſy which happened lately concerning *the Internal uſe of Cantharides*, occaſioned by Dr *Groen-*

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Groenvelt's giving them to cure Ulcers of the Bladder, and I have read his Learned defence of that Practice, and muſt acknowledge that by what I found, Page 111, *&c.* of that Ingenious Apology, wherein are 2 or 3 relations of his ſucceſs in the like caſe by the ſame Medicine, I became encouraged to uſe it to this Patient, having never before done ſo in ſuch a Diſeaſe, or Ulcers of the Bladder.

But in ſeveral other caſes I have often and ſucceſsfully given it, and without the *Dyſuria* and other painful accidents which attend the Internal (oftentimes the External) uſe of this Remedy; altho I mixt no Camphire (Dr *Groenvelt's* admired Corrective) but waſht it down with large Draughts of Poſſet, Ptyſan, Emulſions or Water-gruel; which in this Ladies caſe I forbore to uſe, becauſe of her dropſical diſpoſition, and uſed only a draught or two of middling Ale, Impregnated with *Broom, Juniper-berries, Daucus Seeds, &c.*

The form in which I uſed to adminiſter this fiery Inſect, is that of a ſoft Pill or Bolus, compoſed of 2 *Cantharides* prepar. *Troch. e Myrrha* ℈ß *Sem. Amei* gr. vj R *ob, Cynosb.* q. ſ. *This* in ſtubborn ſuppreſſions of the *Lochia* and *Menſtrua*, in difficult Child Birth, and retention of the *Secundine*, does wonders; what heat or pain it begets in the neck of the Bladder, is much ſhort of what I have an hundred times ſeen (and ſometimes felt) to proceed from applying an Epiſpaſtick to the Back.

About 20 years ſince, an enamoured Youth attempted to gain a coy Girl's Love, by giving her a Plumb-Cake, in which Powder'd *Cantharides* was mixed; She eat part of it, and gave three others of the Family in which ſhe lived a ſhare, they were ſoon tormented with burning in the Stomach, Bloody and Scalding Urine, and great Pain in the Back; I cured them all in a ſhort time, by Powder of *Amoos* and *Lapis Prunellæ*, and Emulſions *aq. Sperm.* R. *&c.* How many *Cantharides* each devoured in the Bread, I could

could gueſs by a piece of it which remained, and ſuppoſe that viii or ix Grains fell to a ſhare.

Olaus Borrichius, Act. Med. *Barthol.* Vol. 4. Obſ. 80. gives a Chymical and Microſcopical examen of thoſe Flies; he ſaith, their parts ſeparated by Chymiſtry do not affect the Skin; that the points of their Particles wound it; and that through thoſe little wounds the Volatile Salt inſinuates; he attempts alſo to ſhew how they cauſe a *Dyſuria*, and offend the Bladder, when applied to a part ſo remote as the Back or Neck. See more from the ſame hand, in the 5th Vol. Obſ. 89.

LONDON, Printed for *S. Smith* and *B. Walford* at the *Princes Arms* in St *Pauls* Church-yard. 1702.

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